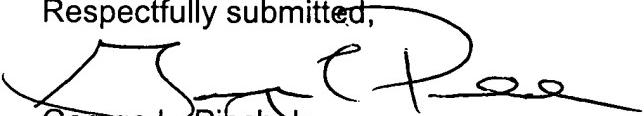


REMARKS

Entry of this preliminary amendment prior to substantive examination of this application is respectfully requested. All claims are believed to be in condition for allowance and prompt issuance of a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Date: 1/24/04

Respectfully submitted,



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